

Press Release: Earth Day

For Immediate Release

Date: _____

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EARTHDAY: Recycling Conserves Natural Resource and Energy?

The Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (MassDEP) congratulates the State's residents for treating every day as Earth Day. The first Earth Day was held in 1970 celebrating the birth of the modern environmental movement. Earth Day, April 22nd, is quickly approaching and MassDEP is eager to recognize the holiday to highlight the benefits of recycling and how individual efforts can make a real difference. By now many of Massachusetts's residents know that recycling helps reduce dependence on the State's limited landfill space and contributes significantly to the State's economic well being. But what many Bay Staters may not know is that recycling also saves energy. With rising energy costs conservation is on everybody's mind and what better way to help but by participating in your local recycling program. Here are some cool facts about how recycling helps conserve energy:

- Recycling one aluminum can saves enough energy to run your television for three hours
- Glass recycling saves 25-30% of the energy used to make glass from raw materials.
- Each year in Massachusetts, energy savings from recycling equate to 66 million gallons of gasoline or a years worth of gas for 70,000 automobiles

Over the years the State has increased its recycling rates from 10% in early 90s to 35% today, but we can still do more. The MassDEP estimates that there is still over a million tons of recyclables being thrown out by residents each year. Simply by putting paper, bottles and cans in the recycling bin, Bay State residents can make a valuable contribution to energy conservation and improving our quality of life. As Earth Day rolls around, MassDEP hopes recycling rates in the state will continue to grow, demonstrating a new commitment to our environment and economy. For more information on how to participate in your community-recycling program, and to learn more about what can be recycled, visit MassDEP's Web Site at <http://www.mass.gov/dep/recycle/> or www.earth911.org.

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